

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A layered structure comprising:
  - a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer **consisting of at least one of Ti, Cr, TiC, TiN, TiCN, CrN or Cr<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>** ~~comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;~~
  - a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; **and**
  - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.
2. (currently amended) A layered structure according to claim 1, **wherein whereby** said first intermediate layer **consists of** ~~comprises~~ titanium and/or chromium.
3. (currently amended) A layered structure according to claim 1, **wherein whereby** said structure further comprises at least a layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition on top of said diamond-like carbon layer.
4. (currently amended) A layered structure according to claim 1, **wherein whereby** said first intermediate layer has a thickness between 0.001 and 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .
5. (currently amended) A layered structure according to claim 1, **wherein whereby** said second intermediate layer has a thickness of 0.01 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
6. (currently amended) A layered structure according to claim 1, **wherein whereby** said diamond-like carbon layer has a thickness between 0.1 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

7. (currently amended) A layered structure according to claim 1, **wherein whereby** said nanocomposite composition comprises in proportion to the sum of C, Si, and O in at% 40 to 90 % C, 5 to 40 % Si, and 5 to 25 % O.

8. (currently amended) A layered structure according to claim 1, **wherein whereby** said second intermediate layer comprises a metal doped diamond-like nanocomposite composition.

9. (currently amended) A layered structure according to claim 1, **wherein whereby** said diamond-like carbon layer is doped with a metal.

10. (currently amended) **An article of manufacture, comprising:**  
[[A]] **a** substrate covered at least partially with a layered structure according to claim 1.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method to cover a substrate with a layered structure, ~~according to claim 1, whereby said method comprises~~ **said method comprising** the steps of:

- providing a substrate;
- applying a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- applying a second intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; **and**
- applying a diamond-like carbon layer **to obtain a layered structure according to claim 1.**

13. (New) A layered structure comprising:

- a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer consisting essentially of at least one of Ti, Cr, TiC, TiN, TiCN, CrN or Cr<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>;
- a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
- a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.

14. (New) A layered structure comprising:

- a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer consisting essentially of one or more elements from at least one of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
- a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.

15. (New) A layered structure according to claim 14, said first intermediate layer consisting of one or more elements from at least one of group IVB, group VB or group VIB.